

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 25-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the foregoing amendment, the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 10 is now moot.

Conclusion

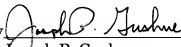
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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Application No.: 09/778,478

Reconsideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures